

## **State Bank of Lehi Safe Failure**

On Saturday morning, 14 November 1914, when cashier Chipman and his assistant George A. Gates tried to open the bank's safe, the time-lock malfunctioned and they could not get any money out. They expected thousands of dollars of sugar beet checks to be cashed during the day, so quickly ordered several "sacks of gold and silver" to be shipped on the first Orem Interurban train from Salt Lake.

In the meantime, local experts tried to open the safe. When they all failed, the bank entered into a contract with three Salt Lake safecrackers. The yemen worked sixteen hours a day for six days, exhausting hundreds of drill bits trying to bore a hole through three inches of super-hardened steel. Even after they finally punched through, much effort was required to hook a wire under the tumblers to position them for opening. A huge sigh of relief was heard when the heavy safe door finally swung open.